

As of January 20, 876 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site. Those include 449 infested host trees and 427 high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continued to work this week in and around Joseph Medwick Park in West Carteret.

It is anticipated, weather permitting, that the first phase of tree removals from the core area of the infestation, that area of West Carteret and the Avenel section of Woodbridge along the Carteret border, should be completed by Friday, January 28. Approximately 1,000 host trees are being removed during this phase. More than 4,000 host trees will be removed over the next several months.

Eight program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA and NJ Forest Service are performing survey and regulatory activities in the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site and seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine.

On January 12, Tom Denholm, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Entomologist assigned to the ALB Program, gave an ALB presentation to the Northern New Jersey Sierra Club in Chatham. Approximately 30 people attended the presentation.

Recent visitors to the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site included Tom Umbrello, biology professor from Union County Community College, and 20 students from his Environmental Science Class studying exotic insects.

During the current winter months, one very infested red maple in the center of the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site will remain standing to be used as a "media tree." This tree has become a multipurpose tool, not only for public outreach, but also as a training tool for new personnel, local public works individuals, college classes, public officials, local homeowners and other tree personnel. Once people see the tree, they realize the need to conduct an aggressive eradication program involving the current tree removal process.

